GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETINS

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VENERABLE CITIZENS OF PALESTINE WHICH MANY JEWS CONSIDER THEIR NATIONAL HOME

(See Bulletin No. 1)

HOW TEACHERS MAY OBTAIN THE BULLETINS

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Soviet Government Plans Jewish Republic in Siberia

THE largest Jewish state in the world, a new unit of the U. S. S. R. (See Bulletin No. 2), is soon to be created in the Biro Bidjan district of far eastern Siberia, according to recent news dispatches. Biro Bidjan, or Birsk Bidjany, as it was once known, lies in the Amur River region north of Manchuria, China. It is on the southern border of Siberia.

Not long ago every geography textbook presented Siberia as a dreary, treeless waste fit only for exiles. The very name "Siberia" conjured visions of long lines of prisoners moving across bleak tundras, their ranks being decimated by wolves and bears and by the whips of their taskmasters.

One Way to Kill a Tiger

Nothing could be farther away from the reality of Biro Bidjan than this vision. The Amur Province, in which it is located, is larger than France and contains almost as varied scenery as the United States with the exception of the semi-tropical southern States. True, there is one high, somewhat bleak plateau, but there are also many fertile plateaus in the region. Marshy lowlands contrast with tall-wooded ranges and treeless plains with magnificent forests. Much of the scenery along the Amur River may achieve wide acclaim for its wild beauty when the country is better known to the world at large.

Nor is perpetual snow a characteristic of the region. Often for months during the winter there will be no snow at all although the temperature during this season seldom rises above — 20°. The short summers are comfortably warm.

There are rich agricultural districts in the province and much gold is mined. Coal has not been mined so extensively but there is an abundant supply. The forests are filled with game: such as the bear, tiger, sable, panther, wild boar, deer and wild goat. Tigers are killed in a novel way. A kid or a dog is tied to a stake at a spot on which a gun is trained by being secured to a rest placed at a little distance. The hunter conceals himself behind some foliage and pulls the trigger when the tiger appears on the scene. When they hunt mountain goats the natives make pipes upon which they play a note like the cry of a kid.

How a Siberian Likes to Wash His Face

Amur Province has one large city, Blagoveshtchensk, the "City of Glad Tidings," with a population in excess of 55,000. It has wide streets and some modern buildings. Practically all the houses of Blagoveshtchensk are made of wood, some being elaborately carved and others ornamented with large rings or triangles of wood nailed on the front of the houses at regular distances. The stoves in the houses are built into the wall from the floor to the ceiling. As the front is flush with the wall they look like decorative panels with their highly colored tiles in various designs.

The Siberian likes to wash his face and hands under a thin trickling stream of water and usually scorns a basin or tub. In some inns will be found a brass receptacle hanging on the wall and ending in a nozzle at the bottom so the visitor can wash under the desired trickle.

© Photograph from International

THE FAMOUS CITY OF WIEN ON THE BANKS OF THE BEAUTIFUL BLUE DONAU

Can you find this great city on the map of Europe? Both the river and city are on the new map of Europe soon to be published by the National Geographic Society with their true names and their Anglicized names, which are Vienna and the Danube. The beautiful blue Danube is neither blue nor Danube. It changes its name five times in the various countries through which it flows, but none of these names is Danube (See Bulletin No. 2).

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Strange New Names of Familiar European Places

SOYUZ Sovetskikh Sotsialisticheskikh Respublik.

That is the true name to-day of the area that once was the Russian Empire, which is now known to the English-speaking world as the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics or, more briefly, the U. S. S. R.

A world-famous waltz would be "The Beautiful Blue Donau," if the singer followed the German and Austrian spelling. And the Danube has other names officially in other countries it traverses or touches: Dunaj in Czechoslovakia, Duna in Hungary, Dunav in the Serb-Croat-Slovene State, and Dunarea in Rumania.

Moskva, Wien, Istanbul and Bogaz ici

The amazing divergence of the official spellings of European place names from the Anglicized spellings we commonly employ has caused increasing confusion among travelers, shippers, and the growing number of firms and persons who have correspondence with European countries.

So the National Geographic Society engaged in a research project extending over a period of two years to determine the local official equivalents of the thousands of names we have adapted to our spellings. For example, the European visitor soon finds that Brussels, in Belgium, is Bruxelles; that Moscow, in Russia, is Moskva; that Copenhagen is Köbenhavn; Vienna is Wien; Constantinople is Istanbul, and the historic Bosporus is Bogaz ici.

Both the familiar spellings, and the official names, of thousands of such places have been incorporated in The Society's new map of Europe. Such a compilation is not so simple as it might seem, even with the facilities of a geographic society which has the aid of foreign governments, foreign geographic societies, and reference to all the gazetteers and atlases already published everywhere in the world.

Current News Printed with True Place Names

Completion of the Asia Minor area, which the map also includes, was held up pending compilation of the authoritative list of Turkish names which were completely revised by Turkey after that country abandoned the Arabic for the Latin alphabet. First releases were obtained of this list by The Society's representative in Turkey and were rushed to The Society's headquarters in Washington by the fastest ships and trains.

The Turkish spellings are, in most cases, new alphabetical casts for old names. Russia has gone farther, the map reveals. The Soviet government has bestowed names of its revolutionary heroes on many cities the world long has known by other names. St. Petersburg now is Leningrad; Alexandropol, near the Turkish border, is Leninakan; Elizabethgrad is Zinovievsk (for Zinoviev); Simbirsk is Ulyanovsk (Ulyan was Lenin's other name). Ekaterinburg, where the Tsar and his family were killed, has given way to Sverdlovsk.

Current news from Europe would sound strange if couched in the true place names of the scenes of its occurrence. Headlines would read: "Young Plan Wins at 's Gravenhage" (The Hague); "Praha (Prague) Protests Proposed Tariff Schedules"; "Premier of Lietuva Resigns at Kaunas" (Lithuania and Kovno being the names by which we usually designate that country and its capital).

The Amur River, which separates the Amur Province from Manchuria, can only be navigated by boats about six months a year. In winter when it is frozen there is much sledge traffic over its icy surface—not all of it under customs supervision. In the summer the numerous islets which dot the river form colorful pictures with their fringe of white sand beaches and brilliant foliage and flowers.

Bulletin No. 1, November 4, 1929.

A NOTEWORTHY CONTRIBUTION TO TEACHING

Requests are being made daily for back copies of the NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAGAZINE for use in schools. Many educators have urged that earlier copies of THE GEOGRAPHIC be made available for teaching and reference. Illustrations, articles and maps make each issue of THE GEOGRAPHIC of permanent value for classrooms and school libraries.

The Society has collected, with the co-operation of its membership, a limited number of copies of special value to schools, which will be delivered to schools upon requisition of the superintendent or principal. It is desired that these sets be allotted to schools in rural areas or smaller towns, where library facilities are limited.

The recipient need pay only the cost of handling and carriage, which amounts to 50 cents for each packet of ten copies of THE GEOGRAPHIC.

Because these packages must be assembled from a wide assortment of earlier copies, many of the numbers available being limited, it will not be possible to specify which issues the packets contain. Each of the ten copies will be a different issue. Thus each packet is a panorama of world geography, including also Nature subjects, exploration narratives, and popular science —in other words a geography library of some 35 authoritative articles with more than 1,000 illustrations, many in color.

You will recognize the value of this gift, arranged as a phase of the educational work of The Society, when it is considered that all back copies available at The Society's headquarters for membership demands are priced at 50 cents each; 75 cents if earlier than 1912. Many out-of-print issues command much higher sums from rare-book dealers.

To minimize bookkeeping, remittance of 50 cents for each packet must accompany the order; and teachers must indicate plainly their school and teaching position because these copies *are made available only for schools.*

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Baghdad, Prospective Capital of a Prospective New Nation

BAGHDAD, romantic city of the Arabian Nights, looks forward to becoming the capital of an independent nation.

Nearly 700 years have rolled by since Baghdad has enjoyed the distinction of being a real capital. Not since the Mongol horde swept away the caliphate government, destroyed the walled gardens where orange trees grew and fountains splashed through warm nights, and frightened away the rich Baghdad trade that crowded mysterious streets, has the home of Harun-al-Rashid beside the Tigris attained such prominence.

But England has promised that it will favor the admission of Iraq to the League of Nations in 1932. Such an act will make Iraq, which is now a mandate territory, equal in international status to Egypt, and will make Baghdad a true national capital.

Where Modern Workers Are Restoring the Garden of Eden

Baghdad is described in a communication to the *National Geographic Magazine:*

"Here, then, is Baghdad—near the Persian frontier, hard by old Eden, man's birthplace. Here on the classic soil of Babylon, Nineveh, and Opis once flourished the pick of the human race; here was the center of the world's wealth, power, and civilization. And back to this ancient region modern men are turning, to reclaim its lost areas, to open its mines and oil deposits—to restore the Garden of Eden!

"From the deck of a Tigris steamer Baghdad looms up boldly, its splendid skyline of domes and minarets reminding one of some 'Midway' of World's Fair memory. An odd pontoon bridge connects the two parts of the city, separated by the yellow Tigris. On the west bank is the old town, inclosed by date and orange groves. From here the Baghdad-Mosul Railway starts on its long run across the trackless desert. East of the river, on the Persian side, is 'new' Baghdad, with its government offices, barracks, consulates, prisons, etc.

"Beyond, as far as the eye can reach in every direction, stretches the vast, flat, treeless, empty plain of Mesopotamia—a region once more populous than Belgium.

Was a Goofah the Craft of Moses?

"I was paddled ashore from the steamer in a 'goofah,' a queer, coraclelike craft in use here since Jonah's day. A goofah is woven from willows about 6 feet in diameter, is perfectly circular and basket-shaped, and is coated outside with bitumen (asphalt). Some say Moses was cut adrift in one of these goofahs.

"Another strange craft at Baghdad is the 'kelek,' a Kurdish invention. The kelek is a raft made of inflated goatskins, held together by poles and covered with a platform of straw mats. These keleks come down to Baghdad in hundreds from Mosul, bringing wool, pottery, grain, and skins.

"The present custom-house at Baghdad is a wing of the old palace of Harun-al-Rashid; yards of scrawling Arabic characters, cut in marble panels, still adorn its historic walls. Baghdad arteries of traffic are mere alleys, often so narrow that two donkeys cannot pass.

Enchantment of Aladdin's Age Gone Forever

"A great wall encircles Baghdad, with guarded gateways, as in medieval days. Flat-roofed, huddled Moorish houses, many almost windowless and each surrounding its own open court, are a distinct feature of the older parts of Baghdad. On

In countries scourged by war and in countries untouched, old names have dissolved and new ones appear. Christiania, Norway, has become Oslo; Agram, capital of Croatia, Zagreb; Queenstown, Ireland, Cobh; Trondhjem, Norway, Nidaros; Reval, capital of Estonia, Tallinn. Then there is the most recent addition to the map of Europe, Citta Vaticano, the official name of the new Vatican State.

Efforts of the great States of pre-World War Europe to absorb minority groups often led to the Russianizing, Germanizing, etc., of native names. Many new names, therefore, are not new names at all, but old names which have come to life with the political revival of a minority people. Brest Litovsk, for example, where the Germans and Russians made separate peace, has dropped its old name along with its pre-war allegiance to Russia and now meets the world under its native Polish name, Brzesc nad Bugiem.

Old maps show practically all Polish names with a Russian or German slant. All this is changed; Lemberg is Lwow; Warsaw, Warszawa; Posen, Poznan; Vilna, Wilno; and Gardinas, Grodno. Finland, although formerly a Russian province, masqueraded under Scandinavian names. Now the land that has sent world-famous runners to the United States has been outfitted completely in native names. It is no longer Helsingfors but Helsinki; not Sveaborg but Suomenlinna; not Viborg but Viipuri; and not the Aland Islands but Ahvenanmaa.

So it goes; Dorpat of old western Russia becomes Tartu when enfolded in Estonia; German Strasburg adds an "o" to be French Strasbourg; Dvinsk finds itself Lettished into Daugavpils; old Austrian Bozen now is Italian Bolzano; Klausenburg in Hungary, transferred to Rumania, takes the title Cluj; and Pilsen has disappeared from two continents. The original German Pilsen lies partially concealed under the Czechoslovakian designation Plzen.

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STREET CAR RIDING IN MOSKVA LOOKS FAMILIAR TO AMERICAN CITY DWELLERS

Moskva is the true Russian name for Moscow, the capital of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, also known as the U. S. S. R.

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Turkey Wants Razor Blades and Typewriters but No More Old Clothes from U. S. A.

WHILE the United States works on a new tariff bill, the Republic of Turkey has put a new tariff into effect.

The Turkish tariff is largely favorable to American imports but it does raise the bars against expensive automobiles, shoe leather and old clothes. The latter is one of the chief American imports into the Republic which now desires that citizens wear new clothes made at home instead of old clothes from the United States.

Nowadays American razors are aiding Kemal Pasha in his campaign to westernize the masculine population of his country. Before the World War, clean-shaven Turks were nearly as scarce on the streets of Constantinople (Istanbul) as bearded strollers on the sidewalks of Broadway. Now and then a bewhiskered Turk visited the neighborhood coffee shop proprietor who cut off beards as a side line, but few faces felt the keen edge of a razor blade. Last year 9,000 American safety razors were imported into Turkey to transform the faces of Turkish men, while only 500 razors made in other countries found their way into the Republic.

Make Shoes Out of Used Automobile Tires

Many Turks who have not yet shaved are patronizing American industries in other ways. If an American tanner could recognize leather from the hides he processes, he would feel at home on a street corner of Constantinople gazing at the feet of passing Turkish men and women. In the Turkish government offices, travelers hear the familiar rat-a-tat-tat of American typewriters, for according to a recent report to the United States Department of Commerce 3,000 machines were shipped to the Republic.

The American tire manufacturer traveling in the interior sees the products of his factory pounding over the almost impassable roads; but perhaps he is more surprised when he sees his products enveloping the feet of the Turkish peasantry. When tires have had their full quota of blowouts, they are sold to the rural folk who cut them in four or five pieces, and, with a few strands of wire, shape them into what appears to be uncomfortable footgear; but the Turkish peasants' arches apparently become accustomed to the rounded tread of these makeshift sandals.

American wool, cotton and even silk pass by the Constantinople corners, although parts of Turkey, particularly in the neighborhood of Brusa, are famous for their silkworm culture. American-made collars now are encircling more and more masculine necks each year; and occasional Turkish bathrooms, which as yet are luxuries in the East, are likely to contain American-made tubs and fixtures; while an American-made toothbrush may repose in a handy holder.

No Service Stations, so They Run Cars Until They Stop

You can travel for hundreds of miles along Turkish roads in the interior and never see a gasoline filling station. Automobile mechanics are almost unknown. But automobile importations increase even in years when other importations decrease. Since there are few Turks to repair cars, there is no used-car market. Many Turks simply run their new cars until they permanently stop. Of about 7,000 cars now increasing Turkish traffic, about 75 per cent are American-made or products of American-owned assembly plants at Smyrna and Alexandria, Egypt.

these flat roofs Arabs spend the summer nights with tom-toms, flutes, water-pipes, and dancing women. Facing the river, removed from the Arab town, are built the imposing foreign consulates, mercantile offices, and the sumptuous homes of rich Jews, Armenians, Greeks, and Syrians—the men who made New Baghdad.

"But the Baghdad of Ali Baba's day, with the splendor of Aladdin's enchanted age, is gone forever. The palaces, the mosques, and minarets are mostly in ruins. Even the tomb of lovely Lady Zobeida, favorite wife of Harun-al-Rashid, is tumbled down and decayed. It is into modern monuments to New Baghdad—into roads, bridges, public buildings, irrigation works, army organization, dredging the Tigris, etc.—that money goes.

Nowadays the "Forty Thieves" Would Be Put in Jail

"If the 'Forty Thieves' started operations in Baghdad nowadays they would go to jail; Sinbad himself would be asked to 'tell it to the police.' Dashing Zobeida, with her fast social set, would sigh in vain for the gay life of old. Modern Baghdad has no time for scandal and duels; it has found its work."

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BAGHDAD'S EQUIVALENT TO THE AMERICAN COUNTRY STORE SOCIAL CORNER

In the city by the Tigris the natives still sit in the bazaars smoking water-pipes, and listening to professional story tellers repeat the tales of Harun-al-Rashid's time as told in the Arabian Nights.

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Begums and Nizams and Maharajas

THE Maharaja of Kapurthala, wealthy India ruler, has been traveling in the United States in the course of a tour around the world.

His visit recalls that the picturesque and often fabulously rich rulers of big and little semi-independent states of India—Begums, Gaekwars, Nizams, Maharajas, and others—have been lodged more firmly in power by the recent report of the Indian States Committee opposing the federation of the Indian Native States and the British administration.

These rulers, although many have adopted Western dress and customs for many occasions, still are among the most colorful potentates of the East.

Rings on His Fingers and Pearls Around His Neck

Consider the Maharaja of Patiala in festive array if you would have a true picture of Eastern splendor and color. He wears a diamond tiara from which hang loops of diamonds, pearls and emeralds. Around his neck is a three-row pearl collar and, on his breast, an emerald breastplate. His coat is of rich brocade, and his hand rests upon a diamond-hilted sword sheathed in a velvet scabbard studded with diamonds. On his fingers are diamonds, rubies, emeralds and pearls.

Patiala's Maharaja is outshone by other princes in the splendor of their jewels. One ruler has a carpet of pearls eight by ten feet. Maharaja Holkar of Indore has a carpet of gold in his throne room and tall gold chairs. The Gaekwar (Prince) of Baroda's treasure includes gun-carriages and cannons of gold. White bullocks, with silver-draped horns and brocaded trappings, draw these cumbersome carriages through the streets in official parades.

Until a few years ago the ruler of Bhopal was a woman, the Begum. Bhopal is a Mohammedan State and its woman ruler made pilgrimages to Mecca and also visited England. There she was protected from "infidel" eyes by an enveloping cape, gathered around her head, with lace-embroidered slits for her eyes.

A Prince Whose Household Numbers 7,000

Perhaps the most novel banquet table in India is that of the Maharaja of Indore. A miniature landscape of flowers and trees illuminated by revolving colored balls adorns the table. A tiny electric train runs around its edge on a small track. The train carries coaches filled with sweets, nuts, chocolates, cigars and cigarettes. At the end of the meal, the Maharaja starts the train by pressing a button at his place, and it stops automatically at the slightest touch of a guest who wishes to make his selection.

The Nizam of Hyderabad, the ranking Mohammedan prince of India and probably its richest ruler, has the largest harem in India. His household, including all retainers, numbers 7,000. Hyderabad was once known as Golconda, a famous market for diamonds in ancient days, and the Nizam's personal collection of jewels is worth millions of dollars.

Although lacking in quality and quantity of jewels, the retainers of the rajahs, in their voluminous turbans and richly colored coats, are almost as picturesque as their rulers. Corps of nautch girls (dancers) wear fortunes in heavy gold ornaments, and their brilliantly hued skirts and pastel tinted scarves delight the eye. Even the elephants of state take to color and jewelry. Their tusks are cut off and

Where the traveler once walked or bumped over the roads in a springless donkey-drawn or ox-drawn cart, he now can ride in a brand new 1929 model touring car or sedan from Detroit, or if he is in a large party, six-wheel buses are at his disposal.

In modern, luxurious conveyances, he passes farms worked with the type of tools used in Bible times; but here and there the crooked stick plow has given way to the glistening, steel-bladed cultivators of American manufacture and the modern American-made harvester has taken the place of the old-fashioned, grain-harvesting implements.

Altogether the United States sells about $4,000,000 worth of American products to Turkey a year. On the other hand, America spends about $12,000,000 for Turkish products. An additional $5,000,000 value in Turkish products reaches the United States indirectly through European countries. American demand for Turkish carpets, apricot kernels, emery ore, figs, raisins, licorice, almonds, walnuts, pignolia and pistachio nuts, olive oil, pottery, tobacco, valonia (acorn cups) and wool causes the balance of trade in favor of the Turkish exporters.

Bulletin No. 4, November 4, 1929.

© *Photograph by Melville Chater*

THE NEW AND THE OLD IN TURKEY

Modern motor cars may easily outrun the traditional *araba*, as long as roads are passable, gas can be had, and machinery behaves; but long-distance motor trips through much of the Near East still hold a high content of adventure.

bound with brass rings. In some states they are provided with solid gold ankle bands, and are tattooed with shawl effects on their foreheads and ears. One ruler has a solid gold howdah (canopied seat) mounted on the back of his favorite elephant. Others gild their howdahs and hang them with gorgeous trappings and tapestry curfains.

The Maharana of Udaipur has some famous dancing horses. These are pure bred horses, caparisoned in gold-covered bridles and brocade saddles, which prance with careful steps to the sing-song music of their Indian accompanists. These dancing horses are popular and may be found in the stables of many of the Indian princes.

Despite the enormous wealth of the princes and other potentates of India the masses of the people live in poverty. The average individual income of India's 300,000,000 people is estimated at less than the equivalent of $25 annually. British rule has brought two blessings to India—the building of railroads which avert the regional famines that, in the past, dealt death to thousands, and protection of her northwest border against invasion by marauding tribesmen.

Bulletin No. 5, November 4, 1929.

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CARPENTERS OF INDIA USE SIMPLE TOOLS

The stability guaranteed by English rule in India has brought enormous wealth to the rulers of semi-independent states throughout the peninsula, but the masses remain poor. These men work hard for a few cents a day.